

TOWN OF CHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING

February 17, 2016
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Tom Bock; William Lindsay; Arne Jonynas; David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Tom Hildreth; Donna Allen; Ben Whalen

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Chairman DeBenedetti.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

February 3, 2016:

A motion was made by William Lindsay to approve the February 3, 2016 minutes of the Chester Selectboard meeting. Seconded by Tom Bock. The motion passed.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

3. 250th CELEBRATION UPDATE:

A motion was made by Arne Jonynas to table this item.

A motion was made by Tom Bock to untable at 7:31 p.m.

Frank Kelley and Tom Hildreth stated that the 250th Celebration will be July 16 and 17. There will be a BBQ and kicking off with the alumni parade and the town can have a float. Tom Hildreth stated that the BBQ will be held on July 16 with a large donation from Black River Produce. There will be children's games and potential train rides. The fireworks will be held on Saturday.

Tom Hildreth stated that in the very near future they will need a way to take money from individuals and sales of items. He requested that the town provide a town account for managing these funds. David Pisha stated that he has spoken with VLCT who informed him that the insurance will apply to the event as long as it is an official town event. He stated that they are not sure if the Railroad can be named as an additional insured.

The Selectboard had several questions. Will there need to be sales tax charged on the sales of any hats and tee shirts? And, how does the committee get appointed?

Frank Kelley also questioned if the town will be willing to contribute towards this event. The Selectboard agreed that Frank Kelley will sit down with David Pisha to determine what the budget will be.

A motion was made by Heather Chase that the 250th Chester Celebration be a town event. Seconded by William Lindsay. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Tom Bock to set up a separate account for the 250th Chester Celebration. Seconded by William Lindsay. The motion passed.

Frank Kelley stated that the next meeting will be February 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elementary School.

4. APPROVE CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE:

A motion was made by Tom Bock to sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage for year ending 2016. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

5. LIQUOR LICENSE:

The Selectboard signed the liquor license for the Free Range Restaurant.

Heather Chase stated that the Free Range Restaurant was voted as the number 6th place to eat in Vermont by "Only in your State".

6. CHESTER ROD & GUN CLUB:

John DeBenedetti stated that the Chester Rod & Gun Club has requested assistance in applying for the CDBG-DR Grant. John DeBenedetti recused himself as he is a member of the Club.

Julie Hance explained that the Chester Rod & Gun Club has requested her assistance in applying for a CDBG-DR Grant. The Club cannot apply directly on their own. The application must be submitted by the town. She stated that this process will run as the NRCS program did, with the property owner signing an agreement and providing the cash match up front prior to the application being submitted.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Selectboard would like to hear from the Rod & Gun Club at their next meeting to answer a few questions.

7. FINANCIAL UPDATES:

General Fund: David Pisha stated that the town is operating very much the same as last year. He stated that expenses are higher due primarily to the timing of insurance payments. Overall the

general fund is close to where it was last year. David Pisha explained that the solar payments need to be broken out to reflect income and expenses. David Pisha further stated that the balance shows current assets and accounts slightly higher than last year.

Water Department: David Pisha stated that it is too early to review water and sewer. The first billing of the year goes out in February. David Pisha stated that he and Cil will break out the solar revenues and expenses for easier understanding.

Sewer Department: David Pisha stated that it is too early to review sewer. The first billing of the year goes out in February. David Pisha stated that the last payment for the loan to the General Fund will be paid this year. He further stated that the salary and benefits has not been transferred, but will be in February after collections begin.

Delinquent Taxes: David Pisha stated that delinquent taxes are ahead of last year. The Tax Sale process has begun with sales being held in April.

Delinquent Water/Sewer: David Pisha stated that delinquencies are up slightly. He stated that water/sewer shutoffs will be scheduled at the end of this collection cycle.

Other Funds: John DeBenedetti questioned the status of the Chester Development Fund. David Pisha stated that he will get a print out from People's.

8. SET WATER RATE:

This item was not necessary as the rate was set in the Water Commissioner's Meeting.

9/ NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

Tom Bock requested an update on the survey of the new cemetery. John DeBenedetti reminded everybody about the February 24, 2016 meeting at the Cavendish Town Hall.

Arne Jonynas stated that there is a TAC meeting scheduled for February 24, 2016 at 5:00. He stated that currently Route 10 is on the priority paving list, which will be discussed.

John DeBenedetti stated that the Town Report is now out for pickup around town.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Tom Bock to conduct a mid-year review of the Town Manager. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed. David Pisha was invited into the meeting. The Board entered executive session at 8:20.

A motion was made by Tom Bock to exit Executive Session at 9:09 p.m.. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

11. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Tom Bock to adjourn. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Julie Hance
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase
Clerk of the Select Board

The SAPA-TV recording of this meeting is hereby made a part of the permanent minute record of this meeting.